

Appendix A: Households' Response Frequencies for Items in the Food Security Scale

Table A-1--Food security scale item responses, 1995, 1998, and 1999¹

Scale items ²	Percent of households affirming item ³			
	1995 adjusted	1998 adjusted	1999 adjusted	1999 unadjusted
Household items:				
Worried food would run out before (I/we) got money to buy more	13.0	12.8	11.3	14.7
Food bought didn't last and (I/we) didn't have money to get more	10.6	10.8	9.9	12.2
Couldn't afford to eat balanced meals	10.0	9.1	8.0	9.5
Adult items:				
Adult(s) cut size of meals or skipped meals	6.5	6.0	4.7	5.2
Respondent ate less than felt he/she should	6.3	5.7	4.4	4.8
Adult(s) cut size or skipped meals in 3 or more months	4.7	4.2	3.4	3.6
Respondent hungry but didn't eat because couldn't afford	3.1	2.6	2.1	2.2
Respondent lost weight	1.7	1.6	1.2	1.2
Adult(s) did not eat for whole day	1.5	1.3	1.0	1.0
Adult(s) did not eat for whole day in 3 or more months	1.1	0.9	0.6	0.7
Child items:				
Relied on few kinds of low-cost food to feed child(ren)	13.2	13.6	12.1	14.4
Couldn't feed child(ren) balanced meals	8.7	8.4	7.3	8.2
Child(ren) were not eating enough	4.8	4.4	4.2	4.7
Cut size of child(ren)'s meals	2.0	1.6	0.9	1.0
Child(ren) were hungry	1.7	1.1	0.8	0.8
Child(ren) skipped meals	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.5
Child(ren) skipped meals in 3 or more months	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4
Child(ren) did not eat for whole day	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1

¹Item response frequencies weighted to population totals.

²The actual wording of each item includes explicit reference to resource limitation, e.g., "because (I was/we were) running out of money to buy food," or "because there wasn't enough money for food."

³Households not responding to item are excluded from the denominator. Households without children are excluded from the denominator of child-referenced items.

Source: Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement, April 1995, August 1998, and April 1999.